

## **Region 3 - Great Lakes/Big Rivers**

Leadership in Conserving, Enhancing, and Restoring Aquatic Ecosystems

## Ashland Fishery Resources Office

Ashland, Wisconsin



The Ashland Fishery Resources Office provides fish and wildlife management assistance for interjurisdictional fisheries rehabilitation, habitat restoration, and Tribal programs, along with numerous other activities. Outreach is recognized as a valuable educational tool to increase public awareness of our accomplishments and goals.

## Ashland Fishery Resources Office

The Ashland Fishery Resources Office (FRO) was established in 1972 and is responsible for fish and wildlife management assistance to about 25 Tribal governments, restoration of native fish and habitats in the Lake Superior basin in cooperation with state, tribal, and provincial governments, ecosystem team priorities (primarily lake sturgeon and coaster brook trout restoration), aquatic nuisance species control, fisheries assistance to 4 national wildlife refuges (NWR); 4 national parks; and 3 national forests, Great Lakes Fishery Commission coordination, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and development of the new Whittlesev Creek National Wildlife Refuge. The mission of the Ashland FRO is "To assist Tribal, State, and Federal resource managers, and private landowners, in maintaining and rehabilitating native aquatic and terrestrial species. communities and the habitats upon which they depend."

One of the goals of the Ashland FRO is to fulfill Federal trust responsibilities to Native American tribes in managing, enhancing, and restoring fish and wildlife resources and ecosystems. To reach this goal technical assistance is provided to tribal resource



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Ashland FRO staff assist the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission with walleye population surveys.

programs in the planning, design, and operational phases of fish and wildlife management and fish hatchery activities in treaty-ceded areas. Staff also assist landowners in restoring wetlands and other habitats in eight northern Wisconsin counties under the Service's Partners for Fish & Wildlife program. Under this program technical and cost-share funding assistance is provided to private landowners in the planning, design, and construction phases of wetland restoration and other wildlife habitat activities.

Aquatic nuisance species are causing significant economic and ecological problems throughout North America. The focus of the aquatic nuisance species program at this office is to promote cooperative



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Ashland Fishery Resources Office Staff
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efforts to prevent or control the spread of nonindigenous aquatic nuisance species. Staff coordinate inter-agency control efforts and surveillance assessments to track the spread of Eurasian ruffe in the Great Lakes and investigates established ruffe populations. The Ashland FRO serves as the single office for compiling collections of ruffe and for reporting Great Lakes ruffe surveillance activities on an annual basis. This office also leads dedicated ruffe

surveillance activities in Lake Superior and a portion of northern Lake Michigan, and experiments with techniques to improve ruffe control.



Station accomplishments also support the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act plus restoration of native fishes in Lake Superior, including lake sturgeon, coaster brook trout, walleye, and lake trout.

For detailed information about the Ashland Fishery Resources Office, contact the office at: **(715) 682-6185** or visit their website at http://midwest.fws.gov/ashland/